

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 15, 2006

Link Named REACH Committee Chair

PIERRE, S.D. – A Sioux Falls man is the new chairman of a state advisory committee that provides leadership to federally-funded projects to stimulate more competitive research in South Dakota.

David Link, executive vice president of the Sioux Valley Health System, will lead the REACH committee, which provides leadership to the South Dakota Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, known as EPSCoR. The committee includes university administrators, Board of Regents' members, state legislators, and private-sector representatives. The group promotes understanding of EPSCoR programs and is helping to develop and implement the state's first-ever Science and Technology Strategic Development Plan.

“The REACH committee is a valuable resource from two perspectives,” Link said. “Over the last 15 years, it has helped the state successfully compete for \$21.6 million in EPSCoR funds. This has resulted in a significant improvement in the state's research infrastructure. Secondly, this committee consistently brings together a core group of individuals dedicated to advancing research in South Dakota. This has built a growing culture of research that extends well beyond the EPSCoR program.”



DAVID LINK



AL KURTENBACH

Link assumed the chair's duties from Al Kurtenbach, co-founder and chairman of Daktronics Inc., who has guided the REACH committee since its inception in 1987.

“I have been privileged to serve as chair of the REACH committee these 20 years and have seen the state's capacity to conduct quality research continue to grow,” Kurtenbach said. He has been involved in many meetings to promote EPSCoR at both the national and state level.

Kurtenbach joins an elite group of individuals invited to participate in a National Science Foundation workshop this month called “EPSCoR 2020.” They will gather input on goals, objectives, and investment strategies to help define the EPSCoR program for the next 10-15 years.